DoD Natural Resources Policy Update

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Overview

- Policy
- Program Oversight
- Tools and Training
- Partnerships
- Program Awareness
- Advocacy

Policy

Natural Resources Conservation Instruction, DoDI 4715.03

14 February 2011

- Purpose
  - Improve the integration of mission and stewardship needs and the long-term health of installation ecosystems
  - Integrate a conservation ethic throughout DoD
  - Facilitate military readiness and cost-effective policies through sustained use of natural resources
  - Identify opportunities for improved cooperation, information sharing, technology demonstration and transfer, and public communications
  - http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/471503p.pdf

DoD Component Responsibilities

- Integrate the DoD Natural Resources Program with mission activities
- Comply with all applicable Federal statutory requirements, including Executive Orders and DoD policies
- Plan, program, and budget necessary resources
- Ensure scientifically sound, innovative, and effective stewardship
- Ensure that installations prepare, maintain, and implement INRMPs
- Conduct internal self-assessments and external INRMP reviews

INRMP Implementation Manual

- General INRMP provisions
  - Coordination, review and public comment
  - Implementation and special management
  - INRMP contents
  - Ecosystem-based management
- New issues
  - DoD Forestry Reserve Account Criteria
  - Valuing and Managing Ecosystem Services
  - Planning for Climate Change
- Evaluating Informal Comments

Coordination with USFWS Draft Sikes Guidance

Key Issues

- Consistency of definitions
- Nature and timing of reviews for operation and effect
- Unnecessary inclusion of environmental contaminants
- USFWS input to annual metrics

Proposed Sikes Amendments

- Better Coverage of Military Installations
  - Would add 47 ARNG installations
  - Meet statutory definition of “military installation”
  - Align management of these state-owned lands with Army policy, streamlining funding
  - Sikes Hearing – May 25, 2010
- Expanded Consideration of Invasive Species
  - Added by then HASC Subcommittee Chair Bordallo
- Casualty of Continuing Resolution
- Expected Reintroduction for FY 2012

Pending Policy Memos

- White-nose Syndrome
- Birds and Powerlines
- Access for Disabled Sportsmen
- Feral Animals
- Wetlands
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Oversight

OSD Program Oversight

Providing flexibility for mission activities while protecting natural and cultural resources

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
REQUEST	$330M	$323M	$320M
APPROP	$344M	$322M	
ACTUAL	$350M		

Overarching Accomplishments

FY 2010 Accomplishments

- Promulgated and evaluated new DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program Metrics
- Convened DoD-focused workshops - Invasive Species Management; Plant Conservation; Pollinators; Biodiversity Management
- Completed and posted/distributed an Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit
- Developed first contingency operations cultural resource guidance for CENTCOM

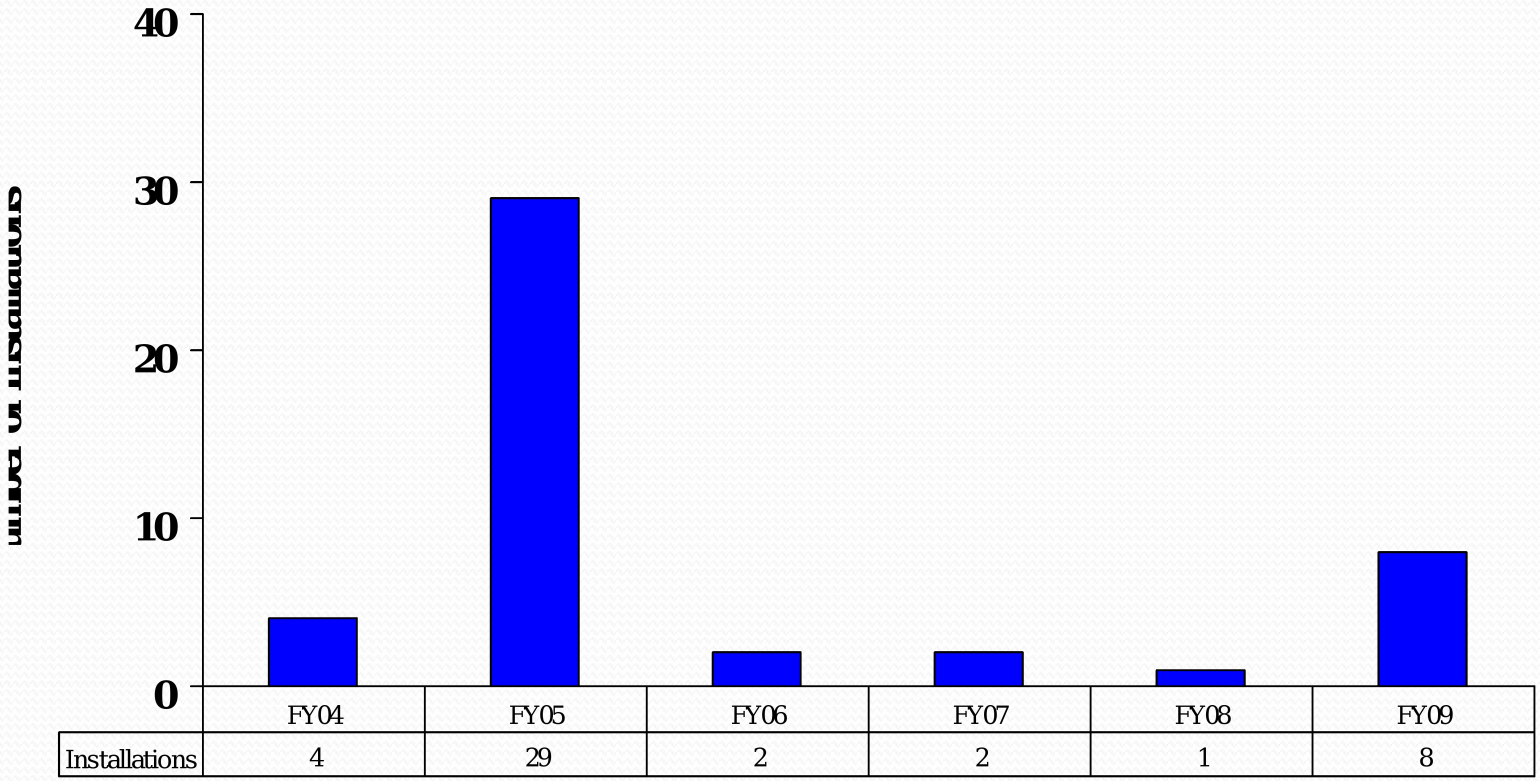
FY 2011 Initiatives

- Issue revised Natural Resources Instruction and develop and issue new INRMP Manual
- Provide new Advanced Sikes Act Training and Endangered Species Act for DoD Managers Training courses and Climate Change Tools for DoD workshop
- Cosponsor Sustaining Military Readiness Conference 2011
- Develop guidance on appropriate rehabilitation practices for historic

FY 2012 Initiatives

- Complete new Natural Resources Strategic Plan
- Complete DoD Partners in Amphibians and Reptiles Strategic Plan
- Develop a DoD archaeological curation policy instruction

Critical Habitat Designation Avoidance



Natural Resources Metrics

- Evaluate effectiveness of natural resources support to the military mission
- Assess overall health and trends of each installation's natural resources program
- Identify and correct potential funding and other resource shortfalls

Focus Areas

- INRMP Implementation
- Partnership Cooperation/Effectiveness
- Team Adequacy
- Impact on Military Mission
- Listed Species Status
- Ecosystem Integrity
- Fish and Wildlife Management

Metrics Next Steps

- Improved consistency in program health metrics
- Standardized project evaluations using legal and mission drivers
  - Quantify mission project benefits
  - Facilitate partnerships between the environmental community (owners) and the readiness community (operators)
  - Base budget analyses and allocations on both legal and mission priorities
  - Provide a more comprehensive basis for justifying future budget requests

Tools and Training

Courses

- Sikes Act 101
- Sikes Implementation
- Endangered Species Act for DoD
  - Beta Test at NAVFAC SW
  - NMFWA!
  - SMR 2011 – July 25th

Informational Workshops

Recent

- Pollinators
- Plant Conservation
- Invasive Weeds
- Climate Change Tools

Current

- White-nose Syndrome
- PARC Strategic Plan Implementation
- Pacific NW Conservation Tools

2011 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference

Connecting Missions, Resources, and Communities

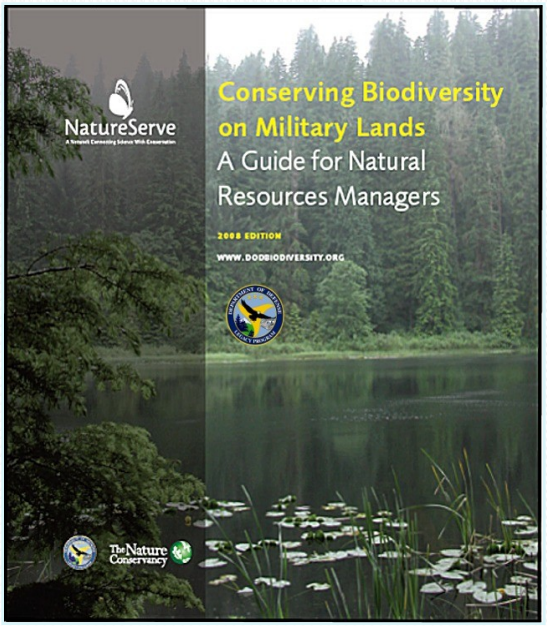
- Crosscutting Plenary Sessions (3 mornings)
- Subject-specific Concurrent Sessions
- ~18 Workshops, including
  - ESA for DoD course
  - PARC Strategic Plan workshop
  - Ecological Forestry
  - NEPA
- Exhibits and posters
- Service breakouts

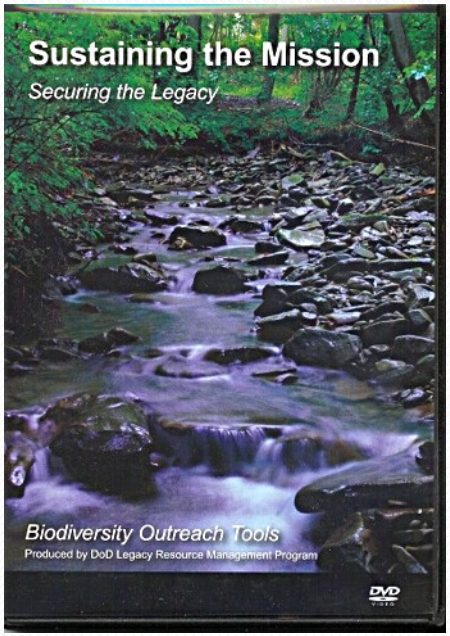
NEW! DoD Biodiversity NRinform

- **Internet discussion group for DoD natural resources managers and others**
- **Access NRinform and register for an account at http://dodbiodiversity.org/nrinform/**
- **Moderated discussion**
- **Goal : an interactive discussion site to share success stories, lessons learned, BMPs and other information that will be useful across military lands.**
- **Potential discussion topics -- invasive species management, protection of endangered species, managing lands for multiple uses, etc.**

Biodiversity Tools

- Revised Handbook with Case Studies
- Biodiversity Outreach Toolkit (2 DVD-set)
- Biodiversity Conservation Toolbox





Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit

- http://www.dodinvasives.org/
- Invasive Species Resources
  - Commander's Guide
  - Template of PPT presentations
  - Radio PSAs
  - Online Resources

{un}WANTED
YELLOW STAR THISTLE Centaurea solstitialis
ESCAPED FROM
Eurasia
VITAL STATS
Height
1-2 m
Appearance
Yellow-flowered heads with 1-2 inch spines
Lifecycle
Winter annual
Often Infests
Grasslands, rangelands
Dense thickets of yellow star thistles now infest 15-20 million acres in California, plus large areas of other western states. The thistles prevent native plants from growing by soaking up an excess of water and by releasing a mild toxin into the soil. And, because it is invasive, it out-competes native grasses and forces out wildlife which can't live in it and can't use it for forage.
Fort Hunter Liggett uses an integrated approach to protect training land, including mowing, herbicides, and biological controls. But the approach, while effective, costs about a quarter of the training management program's budget. As of 2005, of the 22,000 infested acres on the Fort, only 5,000 had been treated.
CAUTION: Yellow star thistle prevents access to training areas, including open landing sites used by paratroopers on Fort Hunter Liggett. When the thickets die off, they become highly flammable and can catch fire easily. Fires decrease air quality and put military personnel and base infrastructure at risk, and combating them is very expensive.
Click to edit Installation POC information to include mailing addresses, phone numbers, and Web sites. (Arial 12)
REWARD
If you have any information concerning this invasive species, please contact us at
www.dodlegacy.org or www.afpmb.org

Climate Change Vulnerability

- *Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment*
  - Overview of general principles of climate change vulnerability related to species and ecosystems
  - Description of various assessment approaches
  - Examples of currently used assessments
- www.nwf.org/vulernabiltyguide

Partnerships

DoD PIF Strategic Plan

- Identifies actions that support and enhance the military mission while minimizing impacts to bird species and habitats
- Sets goals and priorities for eight key areas:
  - Stewardship
  - Partnerships/Cooperation
  - Communications
  - Habitat and Species Management
  - Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)
  - Monitoring
  - Research
  - Information and Education
- Establishes a system to objectively evaluate performance in meeting stated goals

DoD PARC Strategic Plan

- Develop a herpetofauna strategy that
  - Protects and sustains the military mission
  - Reduces and mitigates the threats to amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands
  - Raises public awareness
  - Helps support habitat management
  - Promotes the protection of ESA-listed and common species
  - Promotes proactive efforts to help preclude the need to list species that may impact mission activities
  - Highlights the ecological benefits from military natural resources programs

Program Awareness

Websites

- DoDNaturalResources.net
  - New NR program fact sheets
  - Links to info on Invasives, Pollinators, Workshops, DoD PIF, DoD PARC
- DENIX.osd.mil/NaturalResources
  - Reorganization underway
- DoDLegacy.org
  - Final project fact sheets and products
  - Current projects
  - FY 2012 RFP – mid-April

NR Program Fact Sheets

- Natural Resources Program
- T&E Species on DoD Lands
- Species at-risk
- Invasive Species and DoD
- State fact sheets
- Pollinators

Natural Selections

- Coming soon – 1st Quarterly Issue
- Invasive Species
- Complemented by Natural Resources and Legacy “Blasts”
- Seeking your feedback and contributions

Program Advocacy

Current Initiatives

- Natural Resources Strategic Plan
- POM Issue Paper
- Compilation of Success Stories
  - *Endangered Species Bulletin*
  - Interviews
- Social Media
  - DoD Facebook page
  - DoD Blog
  - Twitter

Questions?

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